

Prosecution in Parent USSN 09/725,040

Applicants traversed a rejection similar to that presented herein in the parent of the present application. Specifically, the claims in the parent of the present application were rejected as obvious over JP '425 in view of Clitherow.

That rejection was withdrawn and new rejections posed in the parent over U.S. Patent 6,171,381 Yoshimura et al (Yoshimura) or over JP '425 in view of Yoshimura.

Traversal Herein

Applicants believe that establishing the patentability of claim 17 establishes the patentability of claims 17-19, and thus argue only claim 17.

The recording paper claimed in claim 17 of the present application is a paper which has been impregnated or coated with the sizing agent disclosed in the present application at the stage of a raw paper or in a paper-making process.

The sizing agent comprises a water-soluble soybean polysaccharide which may be added as such to a paper slurry in advance of paper making as an inner sizing agent. This is, however, not preferred since a large amount of sizing agent is required to exhibit sufficient effects. See page 12, lines 23-28 of the specification.

Since the water-soluble soybean polysaccharide has been extracted from soybean or soybean extraction residue and has been subjected to desalinating purification, the sizing agent of the present invention which comprises a water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is quite advantageous from the viewpoint of avoiding environmental pollution. In distinction, JP '425 discloses, as discussed in the present specification at page 2, a plain paper for inkjet printing

which has been coated with a coating composition liquid comprising as effective components, a synthetic cationic polymer and a water-soluble resin. The synthetic cationic polymer has as an effective constituent a polymerized substance consisting of the skeleton of a (meth)acrylamide alkyl quaternary ammonium salt having a benzyl group. Such material improves the water resistances of a picture formed upon inkjet recording (see the English Abstract attached hereto).

JP '425 is, however, completely silent regarding a sizing agent containing a water-soluble soybean polysaccharide as an indispensable component for providing a recording paper comprising a sizing agent as such.

As a consequence, one of ordinary skill in the art, referring to JP '425 in no fashion would be motivated to reach the invention of claim 17 which mandatorily requires "A recording paper comprising fibers pulp and a sizing agent comprising a water-soluble soybean polysaccharide".

Clitherow discloses a fiber sheet material formed by de-watering an aqueous slurry of fibers/filler particles which comprises (a) filler particles, (b) fiber selected from (1) synthetic fibers, (2) natural organic fibers having an average fiber length of at least 4 mm and (3) inorganic fibers; and (c) a polymer capable of functioning as a coupling agent between the fillers and the fibers, which polymer includes polysaccharide-based substances such as starch and derivatives thereof (underscore added; see Clitherow at column 2, lines 32-39, column 6, lines 4-7 and claim 1).

While it might well be true that Clitherow teaches natural organic fibers and fiber component (2), which may include fibrous pulp, special attention should be directed to the fact

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that coupling agent (c) used in the Clitherow fiber sheet which includes polysaccharide-based substances like starch and derivatives thereof does not function as a sizing agent in Clitherow *agree*
This is quite clear because Clitherow recommends the use of sizing agents, particularly a ketene dimer in the aqueous slurry of fibers (underscore added); see Clitherow at column 9, lines 22 and 30-41, at column 18, lines 20-21 and claim 7). Clitherow thus fails to teach a sizing agent comprising a water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.

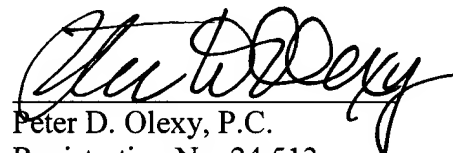
As a consequence, even if Clitherow were to be combined with JP '425, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to reach the subject matter claimed in claim 17.

Accordingly, the combination of JP '425 and Clitherow does not render the claims herein obvious.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17-19 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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